

## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for displaying the progress and results of a database search until a desired result is displayed, said method comprising the steps of:

a. displaying a set of entries from a database of entries, ~~displaying and~~ a set of operators, wherein ones of said displayed set of entries and ones of said displayed set of operators may be selected to form a database search query for producing valid results[[,]]; and

b. selecting an initial entry of said displayed set of entries;

c. ~~updating said displayed result~~ displaying a set of valid results from a query based on said selected entry;

d. updating said set of displayed operators based on said selected entry, wherein said updated set of displayed operators includes and displaying only those operators from the set of operators ~~that would guarantee that the displayed set of entries in the following step f. would contain~~ that may be combined in a query with the selected entry and at least one of the set of entries from the database to produce at least one valid result ~~at least one entry fulfilling the condition that all entries and operators selected so far combined with an operator from said displayed set of operators and an entry in the following step f. would produce a wanted result, the database search otherwise being over;~~

e. selecting an operator from the updated displayed set of operators; and

f. updating said displayed set of entries in response to the selected operator, wherein said updated displayed set of entries includes and displaying only those entries from the database of entries that may be combined in a query with the selected entry and the selected operator to

~~would produce at least one valid result a wanted result based on the selected entry, the selected operator and a selection from the updated set of displayed entries;~~

g. selecting one of said updated displayed set of entries;

h. updating said displayed set of valid results according to a query based on the selected entries and the selected operator ~~said selected entry; and~~

i. while said displayed set of valid results is not the desired result, repeating steps d. through h., based on all previously selected entries and operators, to select an additional operator and an additional entry for the database search query, and to update said displayed set of valid results ~~g. wherein said database search is completed when the result is the desired result, or steps b through d and/or e through f are repeated until the displayed result is the desired result.~~

2. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein said displayed set of entries are displayed in at least one list, table or multi-dimensional field.

3. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the displayed set of entries can be displayed in any hierarchical order.

4. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~wanted~~ desired result corresponds to a non-nullity.

5. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~wanted~~ desired result corresponds to a nullity.

6. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the displayed set of entries is a subset of all entries of said database.

7. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 6, wherein ~~the~~ entries of said database which bear no relevance for the database search are not contained in ~~the~~ said displayed set of entries.

8. **(canceled)**

9. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the selections are made by a computer mouse-clicking mechanism and wherein the operators are Boolean operators.

10. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the selections ~~search~~ ~~commands~~ are entered in a search command structured as a logical structured ~~queries~~ query such as a SQL query.

11. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the operators comprise at least one of the group consisting of ~~containing~~ fuzzy logic, phonetic comparisons, mathematical comparisons ~~or~~ and other logical ~~operations~~ operators.

12. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the database entries are represented by words, text or numbers.

13. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the database entries are represented by pictures, photos, drawings, designs, or other visual characterizations of a particular content.

14. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the database entries are represented by video or audio segments.

15. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein ~~a displayed list of database~~ the selected entries ~~is merged with a number of operators of said set of~~ and the selected operators are used to form at least one hybrid search term.

16. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 11 ~~1~~, wherein a logical operator comprises a plurality of nested or combined single operators.

17. **(original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the progress and results of the database search are being displayed on a computer display.

18. **(currently amended)** A apparatus for displaying the progress and results of a database search, comprising:

a database comprising a plurality of entries;

a search processor for searching the database and retrieving one or more entries, wherein said search processor employs retrieval software to fulfill one or more operations to generate at least one search result list having valid results;

a displaying means for visually presenting said one or more retrieved entries, said one or more operations and at least one search result list; and

an auditing processor ~~that methodically determines~~ for determining all database entries capable of satisfying at least one of said displayed operations to generate said at least one search result list[[,]] and ~~displaying~~ causing said display means to display only those entries of said database entries so determined, ~~that would produce a wanted result upon satisfying the one or more operations, and that methodically determines~~ and for determining all operations capable of generating being combined with a first selected entry and another entry among the displayed entries to generate at least one updated search result list, and causing said display means to display only those operations of said one or more operations so determined ~~a wanted result based on said displayed entries and eliminating from the displayed operations all of said operations that would produce an unwanted result; and~~

~~a display processor for visually displaying at least one of the results lists.~~

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said one or more operations are logical operations such as Boolean or SQL queries.

21. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said one or more logical operation ~~comprises~~ operations may be selected and combined to form a plurality of nested or combined single operations.

22. **(currently amended)** A method for displaying the start, progress and end-results of an operation, so as to enhance the probability of obtaining a desired object, said method comprising the steps of:

- a. displaying a set of operands, ~~displaying~~ a set of operators, and ~~displaying~~ an object ~~obtained~~ obtainable from the selection of at least one of the displayed operands operand;
- b. selecting an operand of said displayed set of operands;
- c. updating said displayed object based on said selected operand;
- d. updating said set of displayed operators based on said selected operand, wherein said updated set of displayed operators includes ~~and displaying~~ only those operators from the set of operators that ~~would guarantee that the displayed set of operands in the following step f. would contain~~ may be combined with the selected operand and at least one of the set of operands to produce at least one updated object operand ~~fulfilling the condition that all operands and operators selected so far combined with an operator from said displayed set of operators and an operand in the following step f. would produce a wanted result, the database search otherwise being over~~;
- e. selecting an operator from the updated displayed set of operators; ~~and~~
- f. updating said displayed set of operands in response to the selected operator, wherein said updated displayed set of operands includes ~~and displaying~~ only those operands from the database of operands that may be combined with the selected operand and the selected operator to would produce at least one updated object ~~a wanted object based on the selected operand, the selected operator and a selection from the updated set of displayed operands~~;
- g. selecting one of said updated displayed set of operands;

h. updating said displayed object based on said selected operands and the selected operator; and

i. while the displayed object is not the desired object, repeating steps d. – h., based on all previously selected operands and operators, to select an additional operator and an additional operand for the database search, and for updating said displayed objects, ~~wherein the end results are obtained when the displayed object is the desired object, or steps b through d and/or e through f are repeated until the displayed object is the desired object.~~

**23. (previously presented)** The method according to claim 1 or 22, wherein said method is directed by a computer program product;

said computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having thereon a computer code means which when loaded by a computer directs the computer to execute a procedure to display information on a computer display; and

wherein said procedure being executed is based on entered or chosen search terms, search commands, operators or operands.

**24. (original)** The method according to claim 1 or 22, wherein said method is directed by a computer program element;

said program element comprising a computer code means which when loaded by a computer directs the computer to execute a procedure to display information on a computer display; and wherein

said execution of said procedure is based on entered or chosen search terms, search commands, operators or operands.

25. (original) The method according to claim 1 or 22, wherein said method is directed by a computer readable medium;

said medium having a program recorded thereon which when loaded by a computer directs the computer to execute a procedure to display information on a computer display; and

wherein said execution of said procedure being based on entered or chosen search terms, search commands, operators or operands.

26. (currently amended) A method for displaying the progress and results of a database search until a desired result is displayed, said method comprising the steps of:

- a. displaying a set of entries from a database ~~of entries, displaying and~~ a set of operators, wherein ones of said displayed set of entries and ones of said set of displayed operators may be selected to form a database search query for producing a result; and
- b. selecting an entry of said displayed set of entries;
- c. ~~updating said displayed~~ displaying at least one valid result based on said selected entry;
- d. updating said set of displayed operators based on said selected entry, wherein said updated set of displayed operators includes and displaying only those operators from the set of operators that would produce a ~~wanted~~ at least one valid result when selected with ~~based on~~ the selected entry, ~~a selected operator from said updated set of displayed operators and the selection of a further~~ and an additional entry from the ~~displayed~~ set of entries;
- e. selecting an operator from the updated displayed set of operators; and
- f. updating said displayed set of entries in response to the selected operator, wherein said updated displayed set of entries includes and displaying only those entries from the database of



entries that may be combined with the selected entry and the selected operator to would produce at least one valid result ~~a wanted result based on the selected entry, the selected operator and a selection from the updated set of displayed entries;~~

g. selecting one of said updated displayed set of entries; and

h. updating said at least one displayed valid result based on the selected entries and the selected operator;

~~g.~~ wherein said database search is completed when the at least one updated displayed result ~~the displayed result is the desired~~ the desired result, or steps ~~b through d and/or e through f~~ d. through h. are repeated until the at least one updated displayed result is the ~~desired~~ desired result.

**27. (new)** A method for displaying the progress and results of a database search until a desired result is achieved, said method comprising the steps of:

a. supplying a set of entries from a database and a set of operators, wherein ones of said supplied set of entries and ones of said supplied set of operators may be selected to form a database search query for producing valid results;

b. selecting an initial entry of said set of entries;

c. supplying a set of valid results from a query based on said selected entry;

d. updating said supplied set of operators based on said selected entry, wherein said updated supplied set of operators includes only those operators from the set of operators that may be combined in a query with the selected entry and at least one of the set of entries from the database to produce at least one valid result;

e. selecting an operator from the updated displayed set of operators;